has yet been filed by the victims, the question of giving compensation does not arise. The affected passengers (Doctors) were given first-aid.

Demands of Railway Employees

77. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways employees all over the Country have served a notice to the Railway administration to go on an indefinite strike if their demands are not fulfilled;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their charter of demands; and

(c) Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Notices have been served by both Federations of Railways to go on an indefinite strike from 6 AM on 1st March, 2006. This is as per the decision taken by the Joint Council Action of Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) Constituent Organisations of Central Government employees to resort to indefinite strike from 1st March, 2006 in support of a common Charter of Demands. Charter of demands is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) Consequent to the dialogue initiated by the Government with the Joint Council Action of Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) Constituent Organisations of Central Government employees, and the decision of the Government to constitute the VI Pay Commission, it has been decided by them to defer the strike.

Statement

Charter of Demands of Railway Employees

The details of Charter of Demands are as under:

1. Constitute VI Central Pay Commission (CPC) and grant interim relief.
2. Merge 50% Dearness Allowance (D.A.) with Basic pay w.e.f. 01-07-2002 instead of 01-04-2004.

3. Withdraw downsizing schemes, stop surrendering of posts, stop outsourcing of activities, lift ban on recruitment and fill all vacancies.

4. Withdraw new Contributory Pension Scheme.

5. Implement the agreement (signed on 11th September 1997) for the rectification of V CPC anomalies and remove hurdles in processing them before the Arbitrator.

6. (a) Grant 50% merger of D.A. to the Gramin Dak Sewaks, provide social security benefit and concede their demand for consideration of their pay scales and service conditions by the VI CPC.

(b) Increase the allowance, including Hourly Rate of Incentive Bonus to the Workshop staff and Special Compensatory (Hill) Allowances etc. consequent on merger of 50% D.A. with Basic Pay.

7. Grant accumulation and encashment of 300 days' Earned Leave (E.L.) for the Defence and other industrial workers.

8. Increase interest rate on the General Provident Fund (G.P.F.).

9. Remove ceiling of 5% quota in respect of compassionate ground appointment.

10. Ensure regular functioning of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) fora as per JCM scheme.

11. Implement pending Arbitration Awards on House Rent Allowance (H.R.A.) arrears, pay scale of Accounts & Audit, Night Duty Allowance etc.

12. Implement the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) decision on restructuring of the Central Secretariat cadre.

13. Implement agreement of 11th September 1997 and grant pay scale of 5000-8000 to the Master Craftsman of the Defence Establishment.

14. Count Casual Labour (temporary status) service in full for all purposes, including pension and other retirement benefits.

15. Create additional posts for the maintenance of new assets created and new service introduced without imposing any restrictions.

16. (a) Reject Kelkar Committee Recommendations on Ordnance Factories etc. and Income Tax Department.

(b) Scrap report of the Running Allowance Committee, 2002.

17. Review Hours of Employment Regulations (HOER), reduce duty hours of the Running staff and other safety categories staff in the Railways.

18. Grant Cadre Restructuring and upgradation of left out cetegories in the Railways.

19. Remove discrimination amongst the Central Government employees working in the N.E. region by granting Special Duty Allowance to all Group 'C' & 'D' employees.

20. Improve Career opportunities of the Group 'D' employees in the Railways.

Double laning of Bangalore-Mysore Rail Line

78. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the increasing movement of freight and passengers on the Bangalore-Mysore rail route, the Government of Karnataka has requested for, *inter alia*, introduction of new train, double laning of Bangalore-Mysore rail line, additional bogies to the existing trains, etc; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Bangalore-Mysore section, doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri (12 kms) and Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32 kms) sections have been taken up on 2/3rd cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. The matching funds have not been provided by the State Government which is affecting the progress of works.

Work on doubling of balance length i.e. Ramanagaram-Mysore (95 kms) is not yet approved for which survey has been taken up.